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ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /023 R

DRAFTED BY CU/EE:WTPRYCE:AMM

APPROVED BY CU/EE:YRICHMOND

PA:CSPRENTICE

EUR/SOV:FARIGGS

EUR/EE:CBROWN

USIA/IEE:MHOFFMAN (INFO)

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

CU:JRICHARDSON,JR; CU:LSTULL; CU:WHITCHCOCK

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R 292206Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, UR , PL

SUBJECT:PROPOSED EXCHANGE VISIT OF U.S. GOVERNORS

REF: STATE 245871; MOSCOW 17136; WARSAW 6825

1. DEPT OFFICERS DISCUSSED PROPOSED U.S. GOVERNORS VISIT TO SOVIET UNION WITH SOVEMB POLCOUNSELOR ISAKOV JAN 28. IT WAS AGREED THAT VISIT WOULD BEGIN ABOUT MAY 15 AND LAST ABOUT 10 DAYS. WE NOTED GOVERNORS' INTEREST IN MAXIMIZING SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF VISIT AND MENTIONED AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND ENERGY AS PRINCIPAL TOPICS OF INTEREST, ADDING THAT GOVERNORS WOULD LIKE TO MEET HIGH PARTY AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

2. WE TOLD ISAKOV THAT CURRENT PLANS ARE FOR DELEGATION CONSISTING OF 8 GOVERNORS, 1 STAFF MEMBER FROM NATIONAL
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GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE, A STATE DEPT REPRESENTATIVE, AND AN

EMBASSY ESCORT. WE ALSO NOTED THAT SEVERAL GOVERNORS, INCLUDING CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST TRAVELING WITH WIVES IF THIS COULD BE ARRANGED. WE ASKED WHETHER ISAKOV HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS RE PARTICULAR AREAS TO BE VISITED.

3. ISAKOV SAID HE WOULD CABLE HIS GOVERNMENT FOR OFFICIAL RESPONSE, BUT HE BELIEVED DATES SUGGESTED WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AND THERE WOULD BE "NO PROBLEM" IN ARRANGING SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH PARTY AND GOVT OFFICIALS. HE SUGGESTED UKRAINE AS BEST AGRICULTURAL AREA TO VISIT, AND LAKE BAIKAL AS IDEAL FOR FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT. HE ENVISIONED NO PROBLEM WITH GOVERNORS BRINGING WIVES AT THEIR OWN PERSONAL EXPENSE.

4. ISAKOV HOPES TO HAVE DIFINITIVE ANSWERS SOON, BUT NOTED THAT REPLY MIGHT BE SLIGHTLY DELAYED, NOT DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST, BUT BECAUSE THERE IS NO SINGLE POINT IN SOVIET BUREAUCRACY WHICH HAS COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH VISITS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOVIETS CONSIDER THE GOVERNORS' EXCHANGE ONE OF THEIR MOST IMPORTANT.

5. FOR WARSAW: DEPT INTENDS TO RECOMMEND TO GOVERNORS THAT THEY CONSIDER A VISIT TO POLAND ON RETURN FROM USSR. WE ENDORSE IN PRINCIPLE PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS MADE IN WARSAW'S 6825 AND WILL BE IN TOUCH LATER RE DETAILS AFTER WE HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE POLISH VISIT WITH GOVERNORS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE020996
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WTPRYCE:AMM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750034-0140
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975019/aaaaahut.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 245871, 75 MOSCOW 17136, 75 WARSAW 6825
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROPOSED EXCHANGE VISIT OF U.S. GOVERNORS
TAGS: OEXC, UR, PL
To: MOSCOW WARSAW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006